

**MONTGOMERY COUNTY FIRE AND RESCUE SERVICE
FIRE ADMINISTRATOR'S REPORT
February 2002**

OFFICE OF THE FIRE ADMINISTRATOR

Commission Office

The following items were discussed at the February 14, 2002 meeting of the Fire and Rescue Commission:

- Issues were raised regarding the how volunteer applicants are being processed at Fire and Rescue Occupational Medical Services (FROMS). These issues will be reviewed and a report made back to the FRC at the March meeting.
- The Fire Administrator provided the Commission with an overview of the FY 03-08 Capital Improvements Program (CIP) that has been recommended by the County Executive to the County Council.
- Bill 11-01: Ethics-Political Activities for Quasi-Judicial Officers was presented to the Commission. This legislation that was passed by the County Council affects the Fire and Rescue Commissioners.
- An update on the status of the implementation PS 2000 project (public safety radio system) was provided.
- The Fire Administrator advised that following a meeting with the County Executive and several chief officers in December, it was determined that the creation of an advisory committee of career and volunteers chief officers would facilitate communications within the MCFRS. Therefore, the Fire/Rescue Chiefs Executive Advisory Committee was established and held its inaugural meeting. The outcome of this meeting was positive, and more information on initiatives for this committee will be forthcoming.
- A/C Clemens from the PSTA provided an update regarding training for the Code of Ethics and Personal Conduct regulation.
- D/C Allwang provided an update on the status providing hazmat training to accommodate the addition of Station 28 as a satellite for the hazmat team.
- The Fire Administrator advised that a committee has been formed to coordinate and facilitate the submission of applications to the USFA Grant program.
- Chief Strock presented an award from the Irish Center of Washington DC to the MCFRS Urban Search and Rescue Team.
- The minutes of the January 10, 2002 FRC meeting were approved.
- The *Acquisition of Fire and Rescue Vehicles* policy was adopted. This policy establishes a process to approve the acquisition of fire and rescue vehicles for the MCFRS fleet.
- Some changes in the support vehicle fleet for the Rockville VFD were approved.
- The FRC reviewed and made revisions to a memorandum from the FRC to the County Executive and the County Council concerning the Fire Administrator's proposed MCFRS FY 03 Operating Budget. This memorandum will be finalized and transmitted.

Research and Planning

Emergency Management

Community Outreach – County Executive Douglas Duncan, Pete Piringer, and Kathleen Henning were presenters at the February 21st Up-County Community Forum. Gordon Aoyagi and Kathleen Henning also were filmed for cable TV at the Friendship Heights Citizens meeting

on February 26th. K. Henning gave several interviews following the Homeland Security Alert system federal press release. County EMG agencies will be reviewing the federal system to determine how alerting will be handled within the County.

Terrorism Equipment 2000-2001 Grant – Kathleen Henning and Merrill Oliver attended the Maryland Emergency Management Agency Federal Terrorism Equipment Grant overview as grant administrators. Subsequent meetings have been held with OMB, Procurement, Police, Fire and Rescue, Emergency Management, and Finance to review procedures and expedite how equipment may be purchased when final authorization is received. Listings of equipment are due April 4th to MEMA, and the notice to proceed with procurements is tentatively expected within the next 60 days.

Terrorism Exercise Grant – OEM has applied for federal terrorism exercise monies to conduct a National Pharmaceutical Supplies distribution and coordination exercise this September. The planning meetings have been scheduled, starting March 20th.

Haz-Mat SARA Training Grant – OEM successfully competed for and was awarded a haz-mat training grant for \$8425. Included is \$800 for Radiological monitoring training requested by the Haz-Mat team, monies for the haz-mat team and LEPC to attend out of county training programs, and updates to the Hazlink database.

Haz-Mat Planning Grant – OEM was given a 50/50 match grant of \$1800 to rewrite Annex AA – Hazardous Materials of the Emergency Operations Plan. Among the changes requested will be checklists for use by responders. Bob Nemchin will be working with Fire and Rescue personnel to update the Annex this spring and summer.

Haz-Mat Revenues – Office of Emergency Management has brought in \$367,000 to-date from the haz mat regulation program. Barbara Moore and Mike Krumlauf made site visits to non-complying facilities over the past 60 days. Follow-up casework is being done to assure that past due revenues from these cases will be paid and processed within this fiscal year.

Disaster Recovery - Mike Krumlauf and Kathleen Talbott attended federal Disaster Recovery Training at the Emergency Management Institute in Emmitsburg. Training included field visits to areas with approved mitigation grant projects to assess how effective applications were matched with final projects. Both individuals highly recommended the class to other public safety agencies, especially DPW&T and DEP who handle our mitigation strategies.

Mitigation Grant - MEMA is holding workshops around the state to discuss new federal interim rules on pre-disaster mitigation grant eligibility. DEP and OEM staff are meeting to update the County's Mitigation Plan and list of potential projects as part of the requirements. Mitigation strategies that are approved in advance of disasters will make the county eligible for additional post-disaster mitigation planning grants. Under the new system the County could receive 15-20% reimbursement of our overall expenses in targeted mitigation grants.

Communication Class – Over 45 Police, Fire and Rescue, volunteers, and other public safety agencies attended the February 25th Communications in Disaster class. New technologies was highlighted at both state and local levels. EMG volunteers from RACES, REACT and Mid-Atlantic DOGS and the State Communications Officer highlighted communication exercises and tests over the past year.

Mass Fatality Class - Montgomery County will be hosting a federally funded Mass Fatality Incident Response class April 30th-May 2nd. Speakers will include members of the Region III

DMORT team that responded to Flight 93, the Pentagon, and Nobles Georgia for the crematory scandal, Police, FBI, funeral directors, and State and federal Public Health Officials.

EXPO - Trudy Georgestone and Barbara Moore participated with a booth at the Greater BCC Chamber of Commerce Business and Tech EXPO on Feb. 6th in Bethesda. Our Preparedness display board and pamphlets were requested. Emergency Management received authorization to use Flood Mitigation Assistance Program monies of \$1800 to purchase an additional display for public meetings and outreach efforts.

LEPC Data Management – The LEPC Technical Advisors met with businesses and county agencies met to review and make recommendations for improvements to the hazardous materials data management system. Improvements were recommended with input from the Haz-Mat team's Capt. Alan Jenkins. A federal/state Hazardous Materials Planning Grant of \$5000 will be used for contracting services to make certain modifications. K. Henning and District Chief Buddy Ey are working on additional modifications that can be made when the data is migrated to the new 911 center data system.

EOC Software – Mike Krumlauf, District Chief Buddy Ey, District Chief Charles Patullo, Kathleen Talbott, and staff from DIST, MEMA, and other agencies have been attending demonstrations by vendors who provide EOC data management software. Additional demonstrations are scheduled for March and April.

FIC – Plans are underway for a Radiological workshop with the LEPC and federal installations for April 22nd. This is the second program this year with county located federal installations focused on homeland security and terrorism preparedness issues.

Annexes – The 2001 Annex review has been completed. Comments have been incorporated from the County Attorney and OMB and are being prepared for transmittal to the County Executive and County Council for signature. The Council will approve the Annexes by resolution after review.

Red Cross – Kathleen Henning participated in a two strategic planning workshop with Red Cross regional personnel and members of COG and nonprofit organizations. Discussions included long term planning trends for the Washington Metropolitan region, and changes in emphasis since September 11th.

EMG Meeting – The Emergency Management Group held its quarterly meeting February 27th and approved a revised Exercise Plan for 2002-2003. OEM staff were able to move forward with grant applications after approval of the exercise plan. The EMG will conduct a Hurricane Exercise with MEMA and the other counties on June 4th. A National Pharmaceutical Stockpile exercise is planned for September, and a radiological/terrorism exercise is being planned for next winter during 2003. The Shelter Task Force identified a number of programs to serve the disabled during disasters and has shared its list of activities with other counties. K. Henning reviewed the Annexes completed for 2001, and advised agencies that technical committee comments are due back by May 1st. The next meeting of the EMG is May 8th.

NIJ Project - Mike Krumlauf participated as an evaluator for the National Institute of Justice (NIJ) Office of Science and Technology CIMS Test Bed Project for EOC automation. Evaluators are testing 11 systems submitted by vendors from around the country, and compare the products against a functionality list compiled from the functions submitted by all the vendors. Report of the results is expected in May.

Push-Pack Planning – OEM staff Kathleen Henning and Bob Nemchin are working with Police, Fire and Rescue, Public Health, DPW&T, and State agencies to develop and update a plan for the distribution of the National Pharmaceutical Stockpile, and coordinate planning activities with the EMG.

Community Education Safety Section

- Attended various Staff meetings.
- Replied, by phone or email, to 60 citizen, 40 FD, & 16 “other” (media, county gov’t) inquires.
- Met with various department staff and members totaling 10 hours.
- Composed various Memos and Safety Tips for dissemination to all work locations.
- Scheduled various community education events and classes (14 hours).
- Dealt with various personnel and program issues relating to community safety.
- Various correspondences composed and disseminated. (11 hours)
- Continued with various Fire Evacuation Planning sessions for various High/Mid Rise Office/Residential, churches, and other 1-story buildings NOW IMPACTING over 70,000 people encompassing 75 HOURS.
- Reviewed bids, proposals, and rough drafts for various education literature and items. (3 hours)
- 3 eNewsletter’s now available on web site. Safety Tips, Upcoming Events, & Recruitment.
- Community Safety Academy in developmental stage
- Operation Extinguish management. (1 hours)
- Various Fire Safety lectures, Health Fairs, Community Events, and Career Day presentations to various groups and schools by this office and some stations. 700 kids and 300 adults impacted.
- CPSS Tech’s participated in several Car Seat Checks.
- Lectured @ PSTA for F.O. I and Essentials Class totaling 8 hours.
- Budget related meetings 1 hour total.

Corporate Development Services

Automation Section

- Responded to 7 data requests and continued working with the County Attorney on a lawsuit filed against the department.
- Responded to over 100 calls for hardware and software support.
- Participated on and attended meetings of the County’s Technical Operation Managers Group, Mobile Data Help Desk Committee, the Mobile Data Network Committee, the Mobile Data Migration Committee and the Mobile Data Implementation Group.
- Continued work preparing the CY2001 incident and unit data for the annual report, to prepare the NFPA report and to submit to the state fire marshal.
- Finished submitting CY2000 data to the state fire marshal and prepared our casualty reports for CY2000 and CY2001 for the state fire marshal.
- Worked with DIST on the upgrade of all Windows95 computers to Windows98 and the upgrade of users from Office97 to OfficeXP.
- Attended the kick-off meeting for the new Office Automation Contract and began working with the new office automation vendors on procurement issues.

Fleet and Facilities Section

- Work continues to be coordinated with the LFRDs, individual fire/rescue stations, the PS 2000 project, and the contractors to outfit each station with appropriate electrical outlets to power PS 2000-related equipment.
- Many of the issues surrounding the Takoma Park fire station replacement project are reaching resolution. Design of the new station is continuing.
- Master planning of the site for the Silver Spring fire station replacement continues. Additional funding is being requested for the design of this multi-use site.
- An RFP was prepared for the replacement of Bethesda AT20.

Grants Management Section

- FY02 USFA Grant: The Fire Administrator has established a MCFRS Fire Grant Committee. The group will coordinate the preparation of the MCFRS grant application and offer assistance to the LFRD's in the preparation of their grant applications. Of note is the fact that for the FY02 submission each qualifying department may submit only one application for one program. Also, the application should only comprise activities that can be completed within the one-year grant period. All LFRD's have been provided packets of budgetary/statistical information for their grant submissions. All submissions should be filed electronically no later than April 1.
- WMD/OJP Grant: MCFRS has been advised of a pending award of approximately \$129,000. Preliminary discussions have been held with MEMA and a meeting will be held in March to discuss processing of this grant with representatives from Fire, Police, OMB, Procurement, and Finance. Application due to MEMA April 4.
- USAR Hurricane Floyd: Received reimbursement letter from FEMA stating that approximately \$494,000 has been approved for reimbursement. Indirect costs have been included in this amount.
- USAR FY03 Training & Supplies Grant: Request for proposal has been received in the amount of \$200,000. Submission is due April 5.
- USAR Pentagon Reimbursement: Pending the review of remaining payproofs and expenditure reconciliation, request for reimbursement should be made to FEMA before the end of April.
- USAR Winter Olympics Reimbursement: Reimbursement request is in process.
- DOJ Domestic Preparedness/ChemBio Grant: Extension authorized due to manufacturer missed delivery deadline
- NMRT: Reimbursement submissions totaling more than \$70K submitted to Arlington County.
- Senator Amoss Grant: Burtonsville VFD supplemental appropriation request for replacement vehicle has been prepared and awaits County Council action in March. LFRD's are beginning year-end review of fund histories/balances, which is due by June.
- Active Grants: 18

- Grants in the Pipeline: 8

DFRS Property Section

- Processed 346 storeroom transactions during the month.
- Conducted second session, as part of CPAT process, for the issuing of uniform apparel and PPE for personnel in Recruit Class #21.
- Coordinated session at the PSTA for the contractor measuring of personnel in Recruit Class #21 for dress uniforms and protective coats/trousers.
- Attended OHR training session on the new requirements for employee performance planning and evaluation.
- Coordinated donation of surplus PPE to the Shenandoah County Department of Fire and Rescue, Woodstock, Virginia.
- Conducted one extended courier route in preparation for holiday.
- Met with Ricochet Manufacturing Company regarding PPE offerings.

DIVISION OF FIRE AND RESCUE SERVICES

Bureau of Operations

Administration

Safety

Specialty Teams

Collapse Rescue/Urban Search and Rescue

Swiftwater Rescue Team

Bureau of Program Support Services

Administration

Communications

Training

Recruit Class #21 began on February 11, 2002 with 46 members and began Emergency Medical Technician - Basic (EMT-B) class on February 15th.

Construction of new Symtron Live Fire Simulator in the Burn Building was completed in February. The new simulator features a flashover simulator, bedroom and kitchen fires, rekindle feature and mineral oil for the artificial smoke.

Exams completed for Emergency Vehicle Driver Testing in February are:

Written	9
Practical	6

Thirty-two sessions of the Chem-Bio In-Service Training Program were held in February with 384 MCFRS personnel and 350 MCPD personnel attending.

EMT-Paramedic Class #23 (nighttime) continues with 27 students and EMT-Paramedic Class #24 (daytime) continues with 22 students.

One career and two volunteer EMT-Paramedics were awarded charge status in February.

Bureau of Life Safety Services

Administration

Fire Code Enforcement

The CENT Program will be working over the Saint Patrick's Day weekend (3/17-3/18).

Fire and Explosive Investigation

In February, Fire and Explosive Investigators investigated 12 accidental fires and 10 criminal fire related incidents. The Bomb Squad responded to a total of 19 explosive / suspicious package / letter, threat incidents. The total estimated dollar loss for accidental fires was \$ 1,160,500 and \$ 709,850 for criminal fire related incidents.

The investigation section closed both large loss incendiary fires by arrest for this month. One of the incidents occurred at a pool house in the Aspen Hill area and the other occurred in a secured medical treatment facility in the Rockville area. The total dollar loss closed for both of these incidents was \$ 703,000. A total of four juveniles were charge with these incidents.

Lt. Shaw and his K-9 partner Hank were requested and responded for a suspicious fire in the District of Columbia.

Captain Hsu provided Fire and Explosive training for the Maryland National Capital Park Police – Montgomery County Division this month.

DIVISION OF VOLUNTEER FIRE AND RESCUE SERVICES

- Participated in multiple budgets sessions
- Met with up-county Chiefs regarding specific issues with their areas
- Met with the LOSAP contractor and received a final draft
- Held the first monthly Chiefs Executive Advisory Committee meeting

- Attended family night at the PSTA
- Met with the Safety Committee regarding injury reports
- Met with the County Council regarding the CIP budget
- Attended a Valor Awards Committee meeting with the Mont. Co. Cham. of Commerce
- Met with OHR personnel regarding a personnel issue
- COPDI Training – COB Auditorium
- Attended the EMG meeting – in the EOC
- Represented the MCFRS for a briefing for the CAO on Environ. Mgmt. Systems
- Attended PSC sessions on the water supply study and PS 2000
- Attended a fire grants committee meeting
- Attended the Fire Board, Human Relations, Safety and Training, Fire and Rescue Commission, Fire and Rescue Association and Operations Committee meetings.
- Mediated personal, personnel and/or sensitive issues with various LFRDs, etc.